

**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
OF THE
WALNUT ENERGY CENTER
BY TURLOCK IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

**DOCKET No. 02-AFC-4
APPLICATION COMPLETE
DECEMBER 18, 2002**

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND SITE VISIT

I. INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND SITE VISIT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Committee designated to conduct proceedings on the Application for Certification for the WALNUT ENERGY CENTER will hold an INFORMATIONAL HEARING and SITE VISIT as follows:

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2003
Site Visit begins at 1:00 p.m.
Public Informational Hearing begins at 2:00 p.m.**

**Turlock Irrigation District Office
Board Room
333 E. Canal Drive
Turlock, California 95381**

(Wheelchair Accessible)

Prior to the Informational Hearing, members of the public are invited to join the Committee on a tour of the proposed site during daylight hours. Bus transportation to the site will leave from the hearing location at approximately 1:00 p.m. Reservations for bus transportation must be made through the Public Adviser's Office; please call (916) 654-4489 or toll-free (800) 822-6228. Reservations should be made **no later than Thursday, January 16, 2003.** Following the Site Visit, the buses will return to the hearing location, and the Informational Hearing will reconvene at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Landowners, members of the general-public, and interested agencies are invited to attend this event or any portion of this event, and question the Applicant and Energy Commission staff concerning the project. The Commission's Public Adviser,

Roberta Mendonca, will be present to assist interested individuals or organizations and to provide information on participating in the Commission's certification process. Ms. Mendonca may be reached at (916) 654-4489 or, (800) 822-6228 or email: **[PAO@energy.state.ca.us]**.

Project Description

The Turlock Irrigation District (TID) proposes to develop a nominal 250-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired, combined-cycle generating facility west of the downtown portion of the City of Turlock, in Stanislaus County. The project, known as the Walnut Energy Center (WEC), would occupy 18 acres within a 69-acre parcel. After construction, the 51 acres not occupied by the facility would be available for lease as agricultural land or future development.

The WEC project will provide TID with additional electrical generation to meet its growing load and customer demand, as well as to replace a portion of the power currently provided by expiring power purchase agreements. The 250-MW project consists of two natural gas-fired combustion turbines and one condensing steam turbine, a switchyard, about one-half mile of new transmission lines, 3.6 miles of new 8 inch diameter natural gas pipeline, 1.6 miles of new recycled water supply pipeline, and approximately 0.9 mile of potable water supply pipeline. Potable water from the City of Turlock will initially be used for all plant needs, including as cooling make-up water. Recycled water will eventually be used for cooling purposes upon completion of the City of Turlock's Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Purpose of the Informational Hearing

Licensing of the electric generating plant and related facilities, such as the transmission line and natural gas pipeline, is under the Energy Commission's jurisdiction. The power plant certification process, which contains requirements equivalent to those under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will examine all relevant engineering and environmental aspects of the proposed project. This process provides a public forum allowing the following to consider the relative advantages and disadvantages of the project, and to propose changes or alternatives to the project as necessary.

- Applicant,
- Commission staff,
- Other interested parties,
- Governmental agencies,
- Landowners, and
- Members of the general public

The Informational Hearing is the first in a series of Energy Commission events where members of the community and governmental agencies will have an opportunity to obtain information about, and offer comments upon, the proposed power plant. At this Hearing, Applicant will explain plans for developing the proposed site and related facilities. Energy Commission staff will explain the administrative licensing process and its role in reviewing the application. Applicant and Staff will also present proposed schedules and discuss possible issues that may be significant during this proceeding.

II. PROPOSED SCHEDULES AND ISSUE STATEMENTS

To assist participants in understanding the project, Staff is directed to prepare and serve upon those listed on the attached Proof of Service List an Issue Identification Report (IIR) which summarizes the potential major issues in this case **no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 15, 2003**. Copies of the IIR may be obtained by calling Mathew Trask, the Project Manager, at (916) 654-4067. Staff's IIR will also be available on the Commission's Internet home page at **[\[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/turlock.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/turlock.html)**.

In addition, Applicant and Staff shall each file proposed schedules for the certification review. Staff should endeavor to present its proposed schedule with the IIR; Applicant shall provide its proposed schedule **no later than 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2003**.

III. INFORMATION

Public Participation

Members of the general public are encouraged to attend and provide public comment. Please contact the Public Adviser as indicated above for further information on how to participate.

Additional Information

For technical questions about the project, contact Mathew Trask, the Commission's Project Manager, at (916) 654-4067 or email: **[\[mtrask@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:mtrask@energy.state.ca.us)**.

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Stanley Valkosky, the Hearing Officer, at (916) 654-3893.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in this event, contact Lourdes Quiroz at 916-654-5146 or e-mail at: **[\[lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us)**.

Media inquiries should be directed to Claudia Chandler, Assistant Executive Director for Media and Public Communications, at (916) 654-4989 or email: **[energia@energy.ca.gov]**.

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, is also available on the Energy Commission's Internet home page at: **[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/turlock.html]**.

Dated: _____

**ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

JAMES D. BOYD
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Walnut Energy Center Committee

ARTHUR H. ROSENFELD
Commissioner and Associate Member
Walnut Energy Center Committee

Mailed to lists: 7164, 7165, 7166